

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Withdrawn)

Claim 8. (Withdrawn)

Claim 9. (Withdrawn)

Claim 10. (Withdrawn)

Claim 11. (Withdrawn)

Claim 12. (Withdrawn)

Claim 13. (Withdrawn)

Claim 14. (Withdrawn)

Claim 15. (Withdrawn)

Claim 16. (Withdrawn)

Claim 17. (Withdrawn)

Claim 18. (Withdrawn)

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA molecule comprising ~~either~~
~~of the following nucleotide sequences:~~

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
wherein expression of the nucleotide sequence encoding said amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 is induced by osmotic environmental stress and
renders a transgenic plant resistant to said osmotic environmental stress ; ~~or~~
- (b) ~~a modified nucleotide sequence obtained by nucleotide replacement, deletion,~~
~~or insertion in the nucleotide sequence of (a), wherein an amino acid~~
~~sequence encoded by the modified nucleotide sequence is induced by~~
~~environmental stress and renders said modified plant resistant to~~
~~environmental stress.~~

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA molecule comprising nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~encoding the amino acid sequence according to claim 19.~~

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cont.
Claim 21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (New) An isolated DNA molecule consisting of nucleotides 1 to 1210 of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 24. (New) An isolated DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the following:

(a) an isolated nucleotide sequence, wherein no more than 5 nucleotides have been added to, deleted from, or substituted in the isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 23, and wherein expression of said nucleotide sequence is induced by osmotic stress and renders a transgenic plant resistant to said osmotic stress, or

(b) an isolated nucleotide sequence exhibiting at least 80% homology with the isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 23, and wherein expression of said nucleotide sequence (b) is induced by osmotic stress and renders a transgenic plant resistance to said osmotic stress.

Claim 25 (New) An isolated DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with the isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 23 under stringent conditions at temperatures ranging from 42°C to 65°C for a time period ranging from 1 hour to overnight, and wherein expression of said nucleotide sequence is induced by osmotic stress and renders a transgenic plant resistant to said osmotic stress.

C1
core 2